

02-278 Comment

I thank God every day that my cell phone is not bombarded by the same kind of abusive calls that my fax machine is subjected to. If my cell phone received unwelcome calls as often as my fax machine does, I'd have to keep my cell phone turned off or give it up altogether. At least junk faxes don't disturb me while I'm in church or in the theater. At least junk faxes can't disrupt me while I'm in bed or driving my car.

I can trust my friends to respect my privacy and to care enough about it not call me on my cell phone at inconvenient times or to subject me to having to pay for receiving unwelcome calls. The business interests that want to become exempt from the cell phone call restrictions of the TCPA are not so trustworthy.

There is very good reason to outlaw automated calls to cell phones; cell phone calls have the capability - by their nature - to be highly intrusive. There should be no weakening - in fact, there should be strengthening - of legal protections against intrusive or annoying calls. All autodialed or pre-recorded calls made to cell phones are abusive invasions of privacy, PERIOD. This applies to cell phone calls from advertisers, debt collectors, political candidates, charities, religious organizations, and even the government. It applies to the whole world.

Debt collector's practices have historically been so intrusive and abusive as to have excited the attention of congress and state legislatures - which acted to regulate debt collection practices. I know of nothing in history that would give me confidence that the debt collection industry can - in the future - be trusted to develop a new-found interest in self-regulating their industry so as to avoid abusing the public interests. I oppose the ACC International petition that is presently before the FCC and implore the FCC's resolve to vigorously protect the public from potentially abusive communications practices.

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